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The Ancient Teſtimony and Principle

Of the People called

QUAKERS

Renewed with Reſpect to the King and Government, and touching the Preſent Aſſociation.

WE the ſaid People do ſolemnly and ſincerely declare, That it hath been our Judgment and Principle from the firſt Day we were called to profeſs the Light of Chriſt Jeſus manifeſted in our Conſciences, unto this Day, That the ſetting Up, and putting Down Kings and Governments, is Gods peculiar Prerogative, for Cauſes beſt known to himſelf; and that it is not our Work or Buſineſs to have any Hand or Contrivance therein, nor to be Buſibodies in matters above our Station; much leſs to Plot and Contrive the Ruine or Overturn of any of them: But to pray for the King, and for the Safety of our Nation, and good of all Men, that we may live a Peaceable and Quiet Life, in all Godlineſs and Honeſty under the Government which God is pleaſed to ſet over us.

And according to this our Antient and Innocent Principle, we often have given forth our Teſtimony, and now do, againſt all Plotting, Conſpiracies and contriving Inſurrections againſt the King or the Government, and againſt all Treacherous, Barbarous, and Murtherous Deſigns whatſoever, as Works of the Devil and Darkneſs: And we ſincerely Bleſs God, and are heartily Thankful to the King and Government, for the Liberty and Priviledges we Enjoy under them by Law; Eſteeming it our Duty to be True and Faithful to Them.

And whereas we the ſaid People are required to ſign the ſaid Aſſociation, we ſincerely declare, That our Refuſing ſo to do, is not out of any Diſaffection to the King or Government, nor in Oppoſition to his being Declared Rightful and Lawful King of theſe Realms, but purely becauſe we cannot for Conſcience-ſake Fight, Kill, or Revenge, either for our ſelves, or any Man elſe.

And we believe that the Timely Diſcovery and Prevention of the late Barbarous Deſign, and Miſchievous Plot againſt the King and Government, and the ſad Effects it might have had, is an Eminent Mercy from Almighty God; for which We, and the whole Nation, have great cauſe to be humbly Thankful to Him, and to Pray for the Continuance of his Mercies to Them and Us.

From a Meeting of the ſaid People in London, *the 23d of the Firſt Month, called* March, 169⅝.